

Message Text

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44

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05

IGA-02 /068 W

----- 061355

R 221651Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8399

INFO SECDEF ISA/DSAA WASHDC

CSAF LGF WASHDC

USCINCEUR ECJ4/7 VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF F-5E/F'S

REF: RABAT 2049 AND PREVIOUS

1. GOM AMBASSADOR TO U.S. BOUTALEB IS IN RABAT AND I SAW HIM THIS MORNING. HE TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED AT GOM FAILURE TO SIGN, BEFORE APRIL 30 DEADLINE, LOA FOR F-5E/F SQUADRON. HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT GOM HAD TWO CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND: (A) CONCERN THAT AIRCRAFT ALREADY BECOMING TECHNICALLY OBSOLESCEMENT; AND (B) PROBLEM OF DELIVERY DATES. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED, AND THAT GOM LOOKED FORWARD TO AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE MILITARY SALES RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S.

2. ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO, BOUTALEB CONTINUED, NORTHROP REPS HAD COME TO HIM IN WASHINGTON AND GIVEN HIM WRITTEN (BUT UNSIGNED) STATEMENT THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO GET EIGHT TO TEN OF THE AIRCRAFT TO GOM BY SEPTEMBER, 1976. (NOTE: I INFER IT WAS THIS APPROACH THAT PERSUADED GOM TO REQUEST EXTENSION OF LOA.) BOUTALEB SUBSEQUENTLY HEARD
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THAT DOD WOULD NOT AGREE TO THIS UNDERTAKING BY NORTHROP.

BOUTALEB WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THIS MEANT DOD WAS OPPOSED TO ANY EARLY DELIVERY OR SIMPLY TO DIVERSION OF PRODUCTION DESTINED FOR USAF.

3. BOUTALEB ASKED ME WHETHER I HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON THIS LOA. I REPLIED MY ONLY INSTRUCTION HAD BEEN TO CONVEY USG AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND LOA UNTIL MAY 1ST.

4. I TOLD BOUTALEB THAT NORTHROP REP CRANE, WHO HAS BEEN HERE FOR A NUMBER OF WEEKS, WAS ANXIOUS TO LEARN WHEN BOUTALEB WOULD RETURN TO WASHINGTON AS NORTHROP REPS WISHED TO SEE HIM SOONEST. BOUTALEB SAID WE COULD TELL CRANE HE WOULD BE THERE MONDAY, APRIL 26 (AND WE DID SO). WHEN BOUTALEB ASKED WHAT NEW PROPOSITION NORTHROP MIGHT HAVE IN MIND, I WAS UNABLE TO ENLIGHTEN HIM.

5. MULSLO SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED CRANE WHAT NEW ANGLES, IF ANY, HE THOUGHT NORTHROP MIGHT BE TRYING TO WORK OUT. CRANE SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN, BUT THOUGHT NORTHROP REPS WOULD BE ARRIVING IN KOREA THIS WEEKEND TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE DIVERSION WITH KOREANS.

6. COMMENT: I CONTINUE TO FEEL OUR BEST POSITION IS TO STAY OUT OF THE MIDDLE OF THIS ONE, AND INTEND TO CONTINUE TO DO SO UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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